

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04675

EXDIS

FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, TU, US  
SUBJECT: TURKEY AND NATO

1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS TO LIFT THE TURKISH EMBARGO IS ON PEOPLES MINDS HERE, AND SYG LUNS TOOK THE MATTER UP WITH ME TWICE YESTERDAY. IN HIS FIRST APPROACH HE ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT HIS URGENT CONCERN OVER THE TURKISH SITUATION AND THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF EARLY AND FAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. I TOLD HIM THE ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT ON THE ISSUE AND IS WORKING HARD AT IT. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT, BUT HE WANTED TO GO FARTHER AND URGE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONGRESS IS CLOSELY DIVIDED ON THE MATTER. A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WOULD SHOW THE TURKS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WAS IN THE FIGHT ALL THE WAY AND MAKING A MAXIMUM EFFORT. IF EVEN THAT SHOULD FAIL, THEN THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AND PUBLIC COMMITMENT WOULD MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO THE TURKS AND WOULD TEND TO RESTRAIN THEM FROM BOILING OVER AND TAKING EXTREME DECISIONS. THEREFORE HE URGED A STRONG  
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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. LATER IN THE DAY LUNS CAME BACK TO THE SUBJECT TO REPORT A CONVERSATION WITH PERMREP KIRCA. KIRCA HAD TAKEN THE POSITION WITH HIM THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING AS STRONG AN EFFORT AS IT SHOULD TO ENSURE REMOVAL OF

EMBARGO. WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD GONE ALL OUT, AS IN THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY CASE, IT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE TURKS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT KIND OF EFFORT WAS BEING MADE ON THE EMBARGO LEGISLATION. IF THE PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUED, THEN ECEVIT WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT CUSTOMER AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO MAKE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD "VETO" ALL ACTION BY THE SUMMIT.

3. KIRCA, WHO IS A COMBATIVE MAN GIVEN TO STRONG RHETORIC, LET HIMSELF GO SEVERAL TIMES DURING DPC CONSIDERATION YESTERDAY OF LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM. IN A NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS CHARGING USG WITH UNJUST AND UNFAIR TREATMENT OF TURKEY AND AT ONE POINT STRESSED THAT "ALL LEVELS" OF USG SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO REMOVE THE TURKISH EMBARGO.

4. COMMENT: I DO NOT WANT TO GIVE TOO MUCH WEIGHT TO KIRCA'S DRAMATICS -- AND HE IS ON HIS WAY OUT FROM NATO WITH OLCAY ANNOUNCED TO REPLACE HIM -- BUT LUNS' PLEA IS A SERIOUS ONE. YOU WILL KNOW BEST HOW TO FIT IT IN TO THE CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE THE TURKISH EMBARGO. HOWEVER, WITHOUT SOME PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT HIGHEST LEVEL, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE GROWING FEELING AMONG OUR ALLIES AT NAC THAT WE ARE NOT MAKING FULL EFFORT. BENNETT

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